



STEPHANIE  
RAWLINGS-BLAKE  
MAYOR

Bureau of Solid Waste

# ReNews



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## Q&A with Recycle Rob

Dear Recycle Rob,

**What happens to the household hazardous waste after I drop it off at a containment facility? – Concerned citizen**

*That is a great question, and one we get in the recycling department quite often. I'll give you a breakdown of how the most common hazardous wastes are disposed. Corrosive liquids like ammonia or detergent are taken to a treatment facility where the chemicals are neutralized. Pesticides and poisons are incinerated. Oil-based paints and thinners are blended into fuel mixtures and later used as fuel. Motor oil is also reused as fuel. And batteries are returned to their pre-used condition at smelters. Hope that helps!*

-Recycle Rob



Next month the Maryland Recycling Network with the Solid Waste Association of North America will hold its 2014 Mid-Atlantic Annual Conference and a panel will discuss the goals, implementation, funding and timelines of the Governor's Zero Waste initiatives. I will be joined by other panelists including:

- Peter Bienek, Chief, Solid Waste Division, Cecil County Government
- Hilary Miller, Deputy Director of Land Management Administration, Maryland Department of the Environment
- Louisa Robles, Recycling Coordinator, Department of Public Works, City of Greenbelt
- Dana Stein, Delegate, Maryland General Assembly
- Suchitra Balachandron or Greg Smith from Keep Prince Georges Beautiful

The moderator will be Dylan de Thomas, Editorial Director of Resource Recycling.

Maryland's Zero Waste Strategy includes looking at increasing source reduction, reuse, recycling access, participation and diversion of organics. Other areas in the draft plan address incentivizing technology innovation and developing new markets for recyclables and recovering energy from waste.

This should be an interesting discussion on how we can reach these goals. In our next newsletter, I will let you know the results.

Thank you for recycling!

Robert Murrow  
Recycling Coordinator



Loretta Harris (left), Marsha Malloy (center), Bernice Hackley (right)



Cintas employee, Jovan, explaining shredding process to Baltimore resident.

## Shredding 101

### Keep it forever.

- Birth & Death Certificates
- Social Security Cards
- Pension Plan Documents
- Passports
- Marriage License
- Divorce Decree
- Wills, Living Wills, Power of Attorney
- House Deed
- Vehicle Titles

### Keep it for a little while.

- Tax Records- **7 years**
- Pay Stubs- **1 year**
- Bank Statements- **1 year**
- Credit Card Bills- **1 year**
- Medical Records- **1 year**
- Insurance Records- **1 year**
- Home Sale & Improvements- **6 years**

**\*\*Once the time has elapsed for the above documents, SHRED IT!!\*\***

### Just to be safe.

- Address labels from junk mail & magazines
- Utility Bills
- Credit Reports
- Expired credit/debit cards
- Pre approved credit offerings
- Used airline tickets
- Baggage tags
- Expired ID cards (license, school ID, medical insurance cards)
- Cancelled/Voided Checks

**\*\*Digitizing your documents is another option and a good way to back up important sensitive documents.\*\***



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## Please don't use plastic bags!

You can use anything as a container for your recyclables **except** plastic bags. Many grocery stores and supermarkets will recycle plastic bags.



## Acceptable and Unacceptable Recycling Materials

### Acceptable Recycling Material:

Aerosol Cans (empty)  
Aluminum: cans, beverage and food containers, foil (clean), and pie pans  
Bottles: narrow-neck bottles  
Cartons (waxed): used for a liquid such as juices, milk or soups  
Glass containers such as bottles and jars (brown, clear or green)  
Metal: beverage and food containers  
Plastic: bottles and jars  
Prescription bottles, including caps  
Steel: beverage containers and food  
Tin: cans and foil



### Rigid Plastics

#### (to be taken to the citizen drop-off centers)

Rigid plastics include milk/soda crates, buckets, laundry baskets, children's toys, etc.

### Unacceptable Recycling Material Examples:

Cookware and plates (plastic)  
Containers of toxic substances -e.g., cans motor oil, pesticides, etc.  
Contaminated paper products -e.g., napkins, paper towels, and tissue  
Dry cleaning bags  
Glass (window and mirror)  
Waxed paper

## Reminders

### Household Hazardous Waste

Got unused bug spray, oil paint, batteries or fluorescent light bulbs you need to dispose of properly? Then you need to come to our next monthly Household Hazardous Waste event at the Northwest Citizens' Convenience Center at 2840 Sisson Street, Friday & Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The program takes place the first Friday & Saturday of the month from April to October.

Most of what we get is paint. **Oil paint is household hazardous waste but latex water-based paint is not.** It can be dried out and placed with your regular mixed refuse.

We also cannot accept gasoline or *anything* not in the original manufacture's packaging.

<http://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/Recycling/HouseholdHazardousWaste.aspx>

### Recycling vs. Upcycling

**Recycling** takes consumer materials — mostly plastic, paper, metal and glass — and breaks them down so their base materials can be remade into a new consumer product, often of lesser quality.

When you **upcycle** an item, you aren't breaking down the materials. You may be refashioning it — like cutting a t-shirt into strips of yarn — but it's still made of the same materials as when you started..

### Source Reduction Tip

The heat is on folks! Instead of cooling down with dozens of plastic water bottles, invest in a refillable one. It is good for the environment and your wallet!



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